The Phantom DA

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Crime is on the rampage in New Orleans. Every law-abiding citizen is worried about it. The district attorney can do something about it. But where is the district attorney? He has become a phantom.

More often than not during the current campaign, the district attorney has failed to show up at public meetings to debate his opponents and to answer the questions that are preying on the minds of the people of New Orleans.

This is not to say the public won't be hearing from the phantom district attorney. We understand he has pre-recorded some slick, Madison Avenue-type television shows which are to be telecast during the last days of the campaign in an effort to blitz the voters and make them forget the past.

But isn't the public entitled to more than this from its district attorney? What about all those bail-bond cases? What about the Cimino heroin case? What about the McGill marijuana case? What about the Patrem rape case? And the Hawkins abortion case? Doesn't the public have a right to know?

Why doesn't the phantom district attorney give the public an opportunity to question him about these cases? Does he have some-

thing to hide? Is he afraid? Is he sick? Or is it simply that the phantom district attorney does not have to answer to anyone but himself?